

Appl. No. 10/665,169
Suppl. Amdt. Dated June 30, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

- 1-41. (canceled)
42. (previously presented) A packaged diaper comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
 - (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
 - (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
 - (f) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement; and
 - (g) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement.
43. (previously presented) The packaged diaper of claim 42, wherein a pressure within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement is on the order of magnitude of a millibar (mbar) .
44. (previously presented) A packaged diaper comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and

Appl. No. 10/665,169

Suppl. Amdt. Dated June 30, 2005

- (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
- (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
- (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
- (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
- (f) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement; and
- (g) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement, said interior space having a pressure on the order of magnitude of a millibar (mbar).

45-46. (canceled)

47. (previously presented) A packaged diaper comprising:

- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
- (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
- (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
- (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
- (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;

Appl. No. 10/665,169
Suppl. Amdt. Dated June 30, 2005

- (f) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement; and
 - (g) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement, said interior space having a pressure between about 5 millibars and about 1 millibar.
- 48-49. (canceled)
50. (previously presented) A packaged diaper, comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
 - (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
 - (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
 - (f) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (g) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement; and
 - (h) wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement includes a configuration that is different from a nominal configuration by at least a lengthwise fold in said diaper.

Appl. No. 10/665,169
Suppl. Amdt. Dated June 30, 2005

51. (previously presented) A packaged diaper that is vacuum-packed, comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space;
 - (b) a compressible absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressible absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said compressible absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
 - (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressible absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said compressible absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
 - (f) wherein said compressible absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement; and
 - (g) wherein the vacuum-packed diaper has three dimensions comprising a width, length, and height, and the sum of two of said three dimensions is less than 10 cm with no single dimension of said three dimensions exceeding 10 cm.
52. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim 42, wherein said vacuum-packed diaper further comprises a tab that facilitates opening of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement for release of said ~~compressible~~compressed absorbent ~~diaper~~diapers therefrom.
53. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim 42, wherein ~~the vacuum-packed~~said compressed diaper has a size no larger than a conventional cigarette package.
54. (canceled)
55. (previously presented) The packaged diaper of claim 42, wherein said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement is formed of a flexible material.
56. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim 42, wherein said ~~compressible~~compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement comprises a substantially cylindrical shape.

Appl. No. 10/665,169
Suppl. Amdt. Dated June 30, 2005

57. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim 56, wherein said ~~compressible~~ compressed absorbent diaper is rolled defining said substantially cylindrical shape.
58. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim 42, wherein said ~~compressible~~ compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement comprises a substantially rectangular shape defining a length, a width, and a thickness.
59. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim 58, wherein said thickness is less than each of said length and said width, and wherein said ~~compressible~~ compressed absorbent diaper is vacuum-packed within said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement reducing said thickness.
60. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim 58, wherein said ~~compressible~~ compressed absorbent diaper is folded at least once along a dimension defining said length.
61. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim 58, wherein said compressed ~~compressible~~-absorbent diaper is folded at least twice along a dimension defining said length.
62. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim 42, wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement has a foldedly reduced length and width each of which is less than about 1/2 of the nominal length and width, respectively, of said diaper.
63. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim 42, wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement has a foldedly reduced length which is less than about 1/3 of the nominal length of said diaper.
64. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim 42, wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement has a foldedly reduced length which is less than about 1/4 of the nominal length of said diaper.
- 65-66. (canceled)
67. (previously presented) A packaged diaper comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and

Appl. No. 10/665,169
Suppl. Amdt. Dated June 30, 2005

- (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
- (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
- (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
- (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
- (f) wherein said packaged diaper is pocket sized; and
- (g) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement, said interior space having a pressure on the order of magnitude of a millibar (mbar).

68-69. (canceled)

70. (previously presented) A packaged diaper comprising:

- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
- (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
- (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
- (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
- (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
- (f) wherein said packaged diaper is pocket sized;

Appl. No. 10/665,169
Suppl. Amdt. Dated June 30, 2005

- (g) wherein said encasement is sealed after evacuation of air from said interior space of said encasement; and
- (h) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement, said interior space having a pressure between about 5 millibars and about 1 millibar.

71-72. (canceled)

73. (previously presented) A packaged diaper, comprising:

- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
- (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
- (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
- (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
- (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
- (f) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement;
- (g) wherein said diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement includes a configuration that is different from a nominal configuration by at least a lengthwise fold in said diaper; and
- (h) wherein said packaged diaper is pocket sized.

Appl. No. 10/665,169
Suppl. Amdt. Dated June 30, 2005

74. (previously presented) A packaged diaper that is vacuum-packed, comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space;
 - (b) a compressible absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressible absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said compressible absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
 - (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressible absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said compressible absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging; and
 - (f) wherein the packaged, vacuum-packed diaper has three dimensions comprising a width, length, and height, and the sum of two of said three dimensions is less than 10 cm with no single dimension of said three dimensions exceeding 10 cm.
75. (previously presented) The packaged diaper of claim 74, wherein said encasement is substantially impermeable to moisture.
76. (previously presented) The packaged diaper of claim 74, wherein printed graphics on said diaper are viewable through said encasement.
77. (previously presented) A packaged diaper comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
 - (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement; and
 - (e) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in

Appl. No. 10/665,169
Suppl. Amdt. Dated June 30, 2005

said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement.

78. (currently amended) A packaged diaper comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
 - (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement; and
 - (e) wherein said diaper ~~is in~~ said compressed state has three dimensions comprising a width, length, and height, and the sum of two of said three dimensions is less than 10 cm with no single dimension of said three dimensions exceeding 10 cm.